

25X1  
C. Carver, Jr.  
VCI/SAVA

19 Feb. 1971

SECRET

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IMMEDIATE VIENTIANE

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[REDACTED]

1. HIGH LEVEL DEBATE RAPIDLY BREWING IN WASHINGTON  
ON FOLLOWING SUBJECT:

A. MACV, BACKED BY JCS, IS CONCERNED ABOUT  
BUILD-UP/MASSING OF TWO NVA DIVISIONS IN TCHEPONE  
AREA AND WANTS TO ESTABLISH FREE FIRE [REDACTED]  
BOX AROUND TCHEPONE TO BREAK UP THIS SUSPECT  
CONCENTRATION. COORDINATES OF DESIRED BOX ARE  
(ALL XD) 222388, 222400, 400585, 400400. (FYI: OUR  
INFORMATION DOES NOT REFLECT SUCH A CONCENTRATION  
WITHIN THIS ACTUAL BOX, THOUGH WE DO SHOW THE  
EQUIVALENT OF ABOUT TWO ENEMY DIVISIONS ASSEMBLING  
EAST OF THE BOX.)

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B. ACCORDING TO PHONE CALL [ ] HAS JUST  
RECEIVED FROM ADMIRAL MOORER, AMBASSADOR GODLEY  
IS OPPOSING THIS PLAN ON GROUNDS THAT THERE ARE XK  
SIX POSSIBLE/PROBABLE PRISONER OF WAR SITES WITHIN  
ABOVE BOX AT WHICH U.S. PERSONNEL MAY BE HELD AND  
THAT THERE IS SOME POSSIBILITY THAT AIR AMERICA  
PERSONNEL ARE BEING OR HAVE BEEN HELD AT FIVE OF  
THEM. GODLEY IS ALLEGEDLY INSISTING THAT NO BOMB  
RING AROUND THESE SITES BE HELD AT 3,000 METERS AND  
ADAMANTLY OPPOSING ELIMINATION OF NO BOMB  
RESTRICTIONS OR REDUCTION OF PROHIBITED RADIUS TO  
1,500 METERS.

2. WE ASSUME SITES IN QUESTION ARE THE FOLLOWING.  
(THERE IS SOME DEBATE WHETHER THESE ARE FIVE OR SIX SITES,  
SAID DEBATE HINGING ON WHETHER THERE ARE TWO SITES CLOSE  
TOGETHER AT XD 335570 or JUST ONE): XD 300470, 320440, 335570

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(MAYBE ONE, MAYBE TWO) 365508, 366584. A QUICK CHECK OF OUR RECORDS SHOWS SOME DISCUSSION OF THESE SITES AS PRISONER SUSPECT IN FOV 18,499 DATED 25 JULY 1969 AND FOV 21,744 DATED SEPTEMBER 1969. ON QUICK SEARCH WE CANNOT LOCATE INFORMATION BEARING ON THEM LATER THAN SEPTEMBER 1969 NOR CAN WE PIN DOWN BASIS FOR BELIEF THAT AIR AMERICA PERSONNEL MIGHT BE AT ANY (OR ALL) OF FIVE OF THESE SITES.

3. WE DO NOT WISH TO GET YOU CROSSWAYS WITH YOUR AMBASSADOR NOR DO WE WANT YOU TO UNDERCUT HIM, BUT WE URGENTLY NEED YOUR PRIVATE AND FRANK COMMENTS ON ABOVE ISSUE. DO YOU HAVE ANY ADDITIONAL OR MORE CURRENT INFORMATION RE THE POSSIBLE HOLDING OF U.S. PRISONERS AT ANY OR ALL OF THESE SUSPECT SITES? PLEASE REPLY BY IMMEDIATE CABLE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE IN THIS CHANNEL.

END OF MESSAGE

William E. Nelson  
C/FE

George A. Carver, Jr.

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